

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Harrison et al. (US 6,611,725), hereafter "Harrison." This rejection is defective because Harrison fails to teach or suggest each and every feature set forth in the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102.

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 9, 13, and 14), Harrison fails to teach or suggest the generation of "bi-directional relationship information representing a correlation between design information used for a design operation, and geometry data that is obtained by the design operation."

Independent claim 1 further includes "display means for employing said reference relationship information stored in said storage means to display linking information indicating that a reference relationship is established between said design information and said geometry data" and "means for obtaining said design information from said geometry data and for obtaining said geometry data from said design information, using said linking information." On the contrary, Harrison fails to teach or suggest the use of linking information to bi-directionally obtain design information from geometry data and geometry data from design information. In Harrison, an annotation can be obtained from geometry data in a model. However, the geometry data cannot be bi-directionally obtained from the annotation. Independent claims 9 and 13 include similar features.

Regarding independent claim 14, Harrison does not teach or suggest that when "multiple digital documents are present as the reference target, said reference target display means enables the computer to display a list of said multiple digital documents; and wherein, when it is recognized that a specific digital document on said list has been

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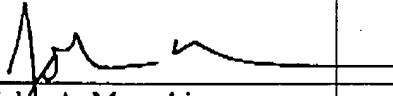
designated, said reference target display means enables the computer to display detailed information for said specific digital document."

Accordingly, since Harrison fails to teach or suggest each and every feature set forth in the claims, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/16/05


John A. Merecki
Reg. No. 35,812

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile